

that such drilling will seriously harm the environment in that environmentally fragile area.

More drilling for oil in Alaska is one of the oil industry's priorities. Both BP Amoco and ARCO are members of Arctic Power, a lobby group supported by the oil industry and the state government of Alaska. Arctic Power has only one agenda item—to lobby Congress to open up the coastal plain for oil and gas drilling.

BP Amoco's acquisition of ARCO is before The United States Federal Trade Commission. It is our hope that BP Amoco's poor environmental record will be considered as the merger approval process proceeds. Better still, BP Amoco could avoid great embarrassment, and set an example as an international environmental leader, by canceling its dangerous plans to drill for oil on the coastal plain.

Such drilling would scar the coastal plain for decades. One need look no further than Prudhoe Bay, the area to the west of the refuge and starting point for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System. Development at Prudhoe Bay has permanently altered more than 400 square miles of pristine wilderness. The area is now one of the world's largest industrial complexes with more than 1,500 miles of roads and pipelines and thousands of acres of industrial facilities. In 1997 alone, about 500 oil spills occurred at this site, involving 80,000 gallons of oil, diesel fuel, acid, biocide, ethylene glycol, drilling fluid, produced water and other materials.

Does Alaska need more of this type of environmental degradation? Opening the coastal plain to drilling will result in more of the same.

THE BP AMOCO ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

In Alaska and throughout the world, BP Amoco is not what its advertisements proclaim. Recent drilling activities in Bolivia resulted in serious water contamination. BP Amoco's drilling subcontractor there refused to continue work, as he became aware of BP Amoco's disregard for the water supply when drilling for oil in South America.

BP Amoco this year pled guilty to a felony charge of dumping hazardous waste in Prudhoe Bay, and was fined \$22 million. Doyon Drilling, a BP subcontractor, was recently fined \$3 million after being found guilty of illegally injecting hazardous waste back into the groundwater at the company's Endicott Field along Alaska's North Slope. The hazardous waste eventually reached the surface and contaminated the surrounding Beaufort Sea. The company pleaded to 15 misdemeanor counts of violating conditions of the federal Clean Water Act, and was placed on probation for five years for ordering workers to dump thousands of gallons of toxic waste into unprotected well shafts.

The BP Amoco merger would effectively end competition for oil on the North Slope of Alaska. BP Amoco/ARCO would effectively control 74 percent of all Alaska oil activities, 72 percent of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and all North Slope oil extraction. Should a company with an abysmal environmental record have undue control over the one of the world's greatest natural treasures, Alaska?

We think not. The record speaks for itself, and the future of an internationally significant environmental refuge is at stake.

FOOD STAMP VITAMIN AND MINERAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Food Stamp Vitamin and Mineral Improvement Act of 1999.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation. It would give those Americans using food stamps the ability to purchase vitamin and mineral supplements for themselves and their families.

A similar bill was introduced with bipartisan support in the Senate and already has the support of the following organizations: the Alliance for Aging Research, the Spina Bifida Association of America, the National Osteoporosis Foundation, and the National Nutritional Foods Association.

Nutrition experts such as Dr. Paul Lachance, Chair of the Department of Food Science at Rutgers University, Dr. Jeffrey Blumberg of Tufts University, Dr. Charles Butterworth, Director of Human Nutrition at the University of Alabama Birmingham, and Dr. Dennis Heldman, Chair of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Missouri have also called for making this commonsense change to food policy.

This legislation would contribute substantially to improving the nutrition and health of a segment of our society that too often falls below recommended levels of nutrient consumption. Scientific evidence continues to mount showing that sound nutrition is essential for normal growth and cognitive development in children, and for improved health and the prevention of a variety of conditions and illnesses. Studies have also shown, unfortunately, that many Americans do not have dietary intakes sufficient to meet even the very conservative Recommended Daily Allowances, or RDA's, for a number of essential nutrients. Insufficient dietary intakes are particularly critical for children, pregnant women and the elderly.

A recent study conducted by the Tufts University School of Nutrition, and based on government data, showed that millions of children living in poverty in the United States have dietary intakes that are well below the government's Recommended Daily Allowance for a number of important nutrients. The study found that major differences exist in the intakes of poor versus non-poor children for 10 out of 16 nutrients (food energy, folate, iron, magnesium, thiamin, vitamin A, vitamin B6, vitamin C, vitamin E, and zinc). Moreover, the proportion of poor children with inadequate intakes of zinc is over 50 percent; for iron, over 40 percent; and for vitamin E, over 33 percent.

For some nutrients, such as vitamin A and magnesium, the proportion of poor children with inadequate intakes is nearly six times as large as for non-poor children.

Pregnant women also have high nutritional needs. Concerns about inadequate folate intake by pregnant women prompted the Public Health Service to issue a recommendation regarding consumption of folic acid by all women of childbearing age who are capable

of becoming pregnant for the purpose of reducing the incidence of spina bifida or other neural tube defects. That is why this change has long been a priority of the Spina Bifida Association of America.

Furthermore, the percent of pregnant and nursing women who get the RDA level of calcium has dropped from just 24 percent in 1986 to a mere 16 percent in 1994. That's 84 percent of women who aren't getting enough calcium—which we know is critical to preventing the debilitating effects of osteoporosis.

And again, the evidence is that lower income women, many of whom are eligible for Food Stamps are more likely to have inadequate intake of key nutrients. Women with income of 130 percent or less of the poverty level have higher rates of deficiencies in intake of Vitamins A, E, C, B-6 and B-12, as well as Iron, Thiamin, Riboflavin and Niacin than those with higher incomes.

Obviously, the best way to obtain sufficient nutrient intake is through eating a variety of nutritious foods, but some groups—particularly those at the greatest risk, including children, pregnant women and the elderly who do not absorb nutrients as well—may find it significantly difficult to obtain sufficient nutrient intake through foods alone. Accordingly, many people in our nation do rely on nutritional supplements to ensure that they and their families are consuming sufficient levels of key nutrients.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the Food Stamp Vitamin and Mineral Improvement Act of 1999. This bill, when passed, will help families, particularly children and the elderly, have a better chance at better health through adequate nutritional support.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES D. NORTHWAY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James D. Northway, who is retiring later this year from his position as President and CEO of Valley Children's Hospital in Madera, California.

Dr. Northway was born in San Francisco on July 22, 1935. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Stanford University. After finishing medical school, Dr. Northway went to Salt Lake City in 1960 to begin the specialty to which he would devote himself throughout his career—pediatrics. There he began a series of residencies and research fellowships in the field of pediatrics.

Dr. Northway is a veteran of the military, having taken a leave of absence from his practice from 1963 to 1965 to serve as Senior Surgeon in the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit in Cairo, Egypt. Upon completing his tour of duty, Dr. Northway returned to the U.S. and proceeded to hold a number of teaching positions at the University of Utah, Indiana University, and the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Northway still serves as Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California, in addition to his other duties.